06V-443
(6 pages)

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report[3]

On NOVEMBER 16, 2006 U.S. BUS CORPORATION **[MFR] decided that ~~(a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)~~(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No.** 222 **) exits in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.**

Date this report was prepared: NOVEMBER 18, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

U.S. BUS CORPORATION 3 PAT MALONE DRIVE SUFFERN, NY 10901

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

MICHAEL A. SYKES, DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Telephone Number: (761) 939-3984 **Fax No.:** (761) 939-4375

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

MICHAEL A. SYKES

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Signed: Michael A. Sykes

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[3]Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, ***for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:***

Make(s): U.S. Bus **Model Years Involved:** 2000-2006 **Model(s):** Studibus

Production Dates: Beginning: 5/1/2000 **Ending:** 5/2/2006

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** School Bus

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Buses involved all have 35" wide Freedman Family Seats

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period. _____

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
STUDEBAKER	2001	4
"	2003	18
"	2004	57
"	2005	12
"	2006	5

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 96

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

ALL MODELS BUILT THAT WERE ORDERED WITH FREEDMAN 35" FAMILY SEATS

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

C.E. WHITE BARRIERS WERE INSTALLED FORWARD OF FREEDMAN FAMILY SEATS. THE CONTACTABLE SURFACE OF THE BARRIER DOES NOT MATCH THAT OF THE SEAT AS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH S5.2.2

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

FAILURE BY MANUFACTURER TO COMPARE THE CONTOURS OF THE SEAT BACK AND BARRIER.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, A PASSENGER'S HEAD COULD BE DEFLECTED INTO AN UNPROTECTED AREA

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

NONE

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

C.E. WHITE COMPANY

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

WILLIAM FRAZEE

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

TEST BY NHTSA ENGINEER AT MGA RESEARCH ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 16, 2006

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

TO PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH A REPLACEMENT BARRIER PAD AND COVER THAT WILL MATCH OR EXCEED THE CONTACTABLE SURFACE OF THE SEAT

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

PERIMETER OF REPLACEMENT PAD WILL MATCH OR EXCEED THE PERIMETER OF THE SEAT

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

INSTALLATION OF FREEDMAN FAMILY SEATS HAS BEEN HALTED, PENDING AVAILABILITY OF CONFORMING BARRIER PAD.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

PURCHASERS TO BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL BY DEC. 15, 2006.
THE ONLY FORESEEABLE PROBLEM WILL BE THE TIME NECESSARY TO DEVELOP AND TEST A COMPLYING BARRIER PAD AND COVER.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. ***A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.***

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.